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Non-Ferrous Metals and Non-Metallic Minerals

Sulfur: Sixty-five percent (180,000 tons) of the domestic use of sulfur in 1954 was imported from Norway, Spain, Portugal and Yugoslavia in the form of pyrites. The primary use of sulfur lies in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, a commodity which is a sine qua non of all industrial economies. If this quantity of sulfur were not available to East Germany, the Bloc would be able to make up the deficit if necessary, but only at a sizeable additional cost.

Industrial Diamonds: East Germany, like the entire Bloc, is completely dependent on western sources, primarily the Union of South Africa and the Belgian Congo for this commodity. Industrial diamonds are subject to COCOM embargo, but because of the ease with which they can be smuggled, it can be presumed that East Germany's primary requirements are being filled. In 1954 about 89,000 karats were imported from the West; imports of 90,000 karats were planned for 1955.

Electrotechnical Products

In quantitative terms East Germany is dependent only slightly on imports of finished electrotechnical products. It is estimated that from 20 to 30 percent of total domestic consumption of the following items is filled by imports from the West (and for some specific types of imports comprise 100 percent of total use):

Spare parts for turbines and generators
Electrical and electronic test equipment
Variable speed and explosion proof electric motors

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In addition the following specialized production materials are imported from the West in the indicated relative amounts:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Ratio of imports to domestic use in electrotechnical products</u>
Mica (strategic grade)	India	60%
Transformer Sheet (core less than 1.1 watts)	W. Germany United Kingdom France	100%
Dynamo Sheet	W. Germany United Kingdom Sweden	25%
Diamond Dies and Diestones	Benelux	100%

Chemicals

Phosphate Fertilizers: About 40% of the amount of phosphate fertilizers (superphosphates, slag, etc.) used domestically is currently imported from Western sources, primarily Belgium, France and The Netherlands. East German agriculture, especially the production of root crops, has suffered from a lack of phosphates, as has agriculture in the entire Bloc.

Borax: The entire amount of borax used domestically in East Germany is imported from the West, largely from Belgium and West Germany. In both 1954 and 1955 East Germany planned to import 3,000 metric tons. Although the Bloc could probably supply replacements for these imports should they be cut off, real cost would be considerably increased since Bloc supplies of boron-containing mineral deposits are of low quality.

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Photogelatin: About 50% of East German consumption of this commodity was imported from the West (West Germany, France and The Netherlands) in 1955. This is a basic ingredient in the production of film.

Blanc Fixe (Barite) is similarly used in the photographic industry. East German imports of this chemical come entirely from the West (Belgium and West Germany); 1955 plans required 1,000 metric tons. What proportion of total consumption this represents is not known, although it is believed to be significant.

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